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INSURANCE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ANTHEM BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD – LRGHEALTHCARE
NEGOTIATIONS RESUME**

CONCORD – After a series of meetings with both parties to explore issues surrounding the contract dispute, New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Paula Rogers has announced that LRGHealthcare and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield have agreed to reopen contract negotiations that had reached an impasse in early April.

"A preliminary meeting to clearly define and outline items needing to be addressed during those negotiations and to discuss selection of a mediator will occur tomorrow morning. Active negotiations between the parties will likely resume shortly thereafter," Commissioner Rogers stated.

Effective immediately, at the request of Commissioner Rogers, both parties will refrain from making statements to the press. In addition, LRGHealthcare has agreed to a further request to delay its health insurance fairs originally planned for May 29, 2003.

Press inquiries regarding the status of the negotiations should be directed to the N.H. Insurance Department to the attention of Leslie Ludtke, Health Policy Analyst at 603-271-2261.